



## Flathead National Forest

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### Media Release

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### **Paint Emery Prescribed Burn Planned**

The Hungry Horse District of the Flathead National Forest is planning to manage up to 2,000 acres of the Paint Emery Project with prescribed fire this week. If conditions, including the weather, burning conditions and available resources, are suitable, the forest plans to initiate the burn this Friday or Saturday, September 30 or October 1. The location of the burn is on the east side of the Hungry Horse Reservoir and is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness, extending south from Clorinda Creek to the Paint Creek area. Approximately 4,500 acres have already been prescribed burned in past years as part of the Paint Emery Resource Management Project.

A column of smoke will be visible across the Flathead Valley and the East Glacier area. Smoke is anticipated to be visible until significant long-duration moisture is received, which is predicted for the area on Saturday and Sunday. The area of the project is comprised of high elevation forest and shrubs. There are no trails and roads in the planned burn area.

The objectives of the burn are for wildlife and ecosystem management. Forage will be enhanced for wildlife. The burn will recreate a mosaic vegetative pattern and rejuvenate the area. Fuel loading and tree densities will be reduced.

Aerial ignition will be used on this project. A helitorch attached to a helicopter will ignite the vegetation. This project does not impact resources for fire suppression efforts on the forest, region or nation. The forest is working with the Montana State Department of Environmental Quality to follow state air quality guidelines.

An area closure for public safety will be in place that encompasses the prescribed burn area. Information, including the area closure map, will be posted online at <http://inciweb.org/>. Hunters and forest visitors are also encouraged to call the Hungry Horse Ranger District at 406-387-3800 (weekdays) or the Spotted Bear Ranger District at 406-758-5376 for updated information.

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